

The best information available about the settlement of the Heber Valley seems to lead to the conclusion that upper Provo Valley, was the very first portion of the state of Utah ever visited by white men.

While our forefathers were struggling for independence along the Atlantic Coast, the Spaniards were busy exploring the interior of the country. The more practical object was to find a route to the Pacific Coast. This was in 1776. They saw a majestic mountain, in its grandeur, girded by a sparkling glacier and drifting white clouds in a matchless blue horizon. The mountain with lofty peaks and lush green foliage, inspired a strange legend of a sleeping Indian maiden.

Several mill hands, also gazed upon the same horizon, as they hiked eastward from a Big Cottonwood sawmill and viewed the mile high valley from the Wasatch Range, in 1857.

Many other groups hearing rumors of a desirable agricultural valley, on the other side of the mountain, explored and looked upon the beautiful handwork of nature and decided it was a good place to locate. However, about this same time, preparations were being made by a group of harassed and freedom loving people, to find peace from violent mobs and persecution, where they could worship and progress in a "restored religion" which they had embraced.

"This Is The Place"

In 1847, Brigham Young and the first company of Mormon pioneers traced a path across the Great American Desert to the Salt Lake Valley. This path became familiar to thousands of Latter-day Saints who came from all sections of the United States and northern Europe. Most of them had little experience in this type of a colonizing venture, and volumes can be read of the trials and tribulations they encountered. They became the pioneers who have made an important contribution to our present-day life here in Heber Valley.

"We live in an area we largely inherited. Some of the familiar things that surround us are of our own making, but largely they are things our fathers did for us. We are heirs of wonderful treasures from the past. Treasures of work and faith and sacrifice, that we in our day might live better than our fathers. But how few of us open our eyes to see these treasures? What a different place this world

*would be if our senses were trained to hear the whisperings of the past, and hear how those, now gone, yearned for this day in which we bear sway." (Wasatch County Chapter, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, **How Beautiful Upon the Mountains**).*

Even though trappers and mountainmen gave reports of killing frosts each month of the year, and surprise attacks by Indians, a group left Provo in April, 1859, to meet their challenge in the form of a snow-slide, crossing the road near the south fork of the Provo River. We learn from the diary of John Crook, how they had to make camp there, then pull their wagons apart and carry them piece by piece to the other side, where they reassembled their wagons, organized their provisions, then continued up the canyon, along with their cattle.



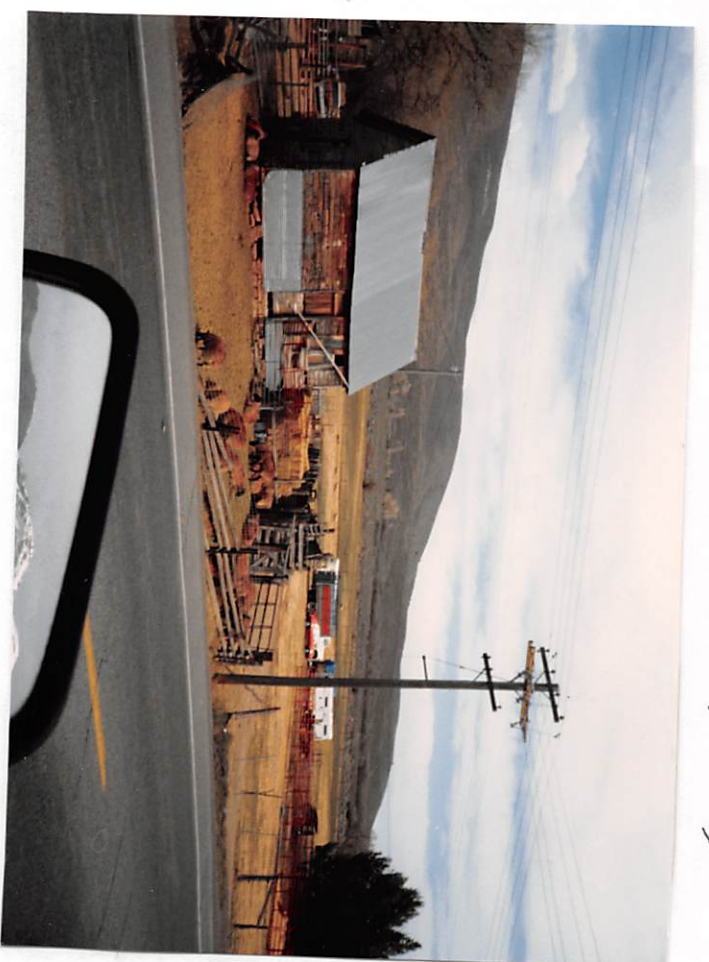
Artist's conception of the first campsite in the Heber Valley. About one mile north of Heber.

Entering Heber Valley

Arriving and walking on foot to the proposed site of Heber City, looking north they saw two moving objects, which they supposed to be wild animals, but later found them to be two yoke of cattle and two men already plowing. They decided to make camp with them, and built wickie-ups of willows and grass, large enough to shelter thirty men. Because most of the group had originally come from London, England, and had been converted to the gospel in that area by Heber C. Kimball, they decided to name this spot, Lon-

Close-up
London
Spring

London Spring



Home
where
Wilson
+ Julie
young
lived
clean
to



Wilson
young
home
for
adults

McDonald Spring



↓
Formerly log
house
2-story
John Murdock

SESSIONS, RICHARD (son of Saulmon Sessions and Mary Hargraves of Logan county, Ky. and Wayne county, Ill.). Born April 28, 1799, Logan county, Ky. Came to Utah 1847. Contingent Mormon battalion.

Married Lucretia Haws 1820, White county, Ill. (daughter of Jacob Haws and Hannah Nail), who was born Nov. 22, 1802. Their children: John b. Aug. 22, 1821, m. Emeline Sessions July 1846; Sarah Ann and Richard, Jr., died; William Bradford b. Jan. 23, 1827, m. Cathrine Yeger; Daniel Alexander b. Jan. 11, 1829, m. Janette Baum; Mary, died; Louisa b. July 26, 1833, d. 1891; Eliza Jane, died; Melissa b. March 11, 1836, m. Isaac Baum; Emeline b. May 1, 1840, m. Charles Carter Thomas; Elizabeth b. Aug. 31, 1842, m. David Condon; Hannah b. Jan. 19, 1846, m. William Gallagher.

Seventy. Counselor to Bishop Terry of Mosquito Creek, Iowa; 2d counselor to Bishops Fawcett and William Wall of Provo. Member of 30th regiment, 1st brigade Illinois mounted volunteers in the Illinois Black Hawk Indian war. Farmer and stockraiser. Died March 1879, Heber, Utah.

Riverdale
Sessions Cold Spring
London Ditch from London Spring

"Tobe" = Adolphus Sessions

"Nuk" Sessions

settlement, of course, was at Heber City, but there were also two small settlements along the Snake Creek, a number of families at Center Creek, some at Charleston, some in Round Valley or Wallsburg, a small cluster of houses at the Sessions spring and a few at a sheep ranch of Melvin Ross, afterwards known as Hailstone's Ranch, about eight miles north of Heber.

The first county road was established on March 3, 1862, and commenced at the Provo River below Manning's (southwest of the town of Charleston) and ran in a northerly direction following the old immigrant trail through the valley, passing by Melvin Ross' ranch and terminating at the northern boundary of the county known then as the Ross Summit.

Another county road was established April 26, 1862 and ran between Heber City and Center Creek and on to a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon.

Four school districts were also designated in April, 1862. They were district No. 1 to include Heber City; No. 2 at the Center Creek settlement; No. 3, the lower settlement on Snake Creek and No. 4 the upper Snake Creek settlement.

The first valuation of property for the county took place in 1862, and according to the report of John Harvey, assessor and collector, the property value in the valley was \$48,350.

Spring came late in 1862 and it was May 4 before any plowing could be done in the valley. The Church leaders who went to Salt Lake City for general conference sessions in April had to travel on snowshoes to get through the more than four feet of snow still on the ground.

Early in 1862 John H. Van Wagoner finished building a gristmill at Snake Creek's lower settlement. Even though there was no way to separate the smut from the wheat and some of the flour made was very dark, the people were still glad for this added improvement. At times that year the river was so high people couldn't get across to the mill. However, Henry McMullin, a ship builder from Maine, built a boat and the grist was taken back and forth on the boat. It was this same Mr. McMullin that built the first sawmill in the valley. It was owned by William M. Wall and James Adams and located in Center Creek Canyon.


Until the sawmill was built, people had used hand-prepared timber for all their furniture and other needs. Now with cut lumber available the rough furniture was quickly discarded.

Many of the people were able to obtain good wagons from the soldiers in Johnston's Army. The army had camped near Utah Lake until the outbreak of the Civil War in the East. They were summoned to return to the Northern Army's camps and so they sold some of their wagons and their supplies very cheaply rather than carry them back east. Many in Wasatch County obtained the wagons as the troops passed through the valley on their eastern trip.

HUSBAND
Birth date.....28 Apr. 1799.....Place Logan Co., Ky.
Christening date.....Place
Death date.....Mar. 1879.....Place Haber, Wasatch, Utah
Burial date.....Place
Husband's Father.....Solomon Sessions.....Husb. Mother (Maiden Name) Mary Hargreaves
Marriage date (Husb.) 11c. 14 Apr. 1821.....Place
Wives of Husband (if any, list in order)

this family record obtained?
Mary B. Haws got inform.
from Mary Haws, York
Name and address of person submitting this sheet.
Grace C. McOmber
504 Northland
Pocatello, Idaho

WIFE
LUCRETIA HAWS *
Birth date.....22 Nov. 1802.....Place of Ky.
Christening date.....Place
Death date.....11 Feb. 1876.....Place Haber, Wasatch, Utah
Burial date.....Place
Wife's Father.....Jacob Haws *.....Wife's Mother (Maiden Name) Hannah Neil or Neal
Other Husbands of Wife (if any list in order)

Name (in Full) Richard Sessions 1799
Lucretia Haws

RICHARD SESSIONS
Born April 28, 1799, Logan County, Ky.
Came to Utah 1847, Co. A, Mormon Battalion.
Farmer. Black Hawk Indian War Veteran. 116
SEALED
O PARENTS
DEC 1953 IF
DEC 1953 IF

Male or Female	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN Day Mo. Yr.	WHERE BORN Town County	State or Country	DIED Day Mo. Yr.	*MARRIED (First Husband or Wife) *List additional marriages with dates on reverse side of sheet
M	1 John Sessions *	22 Aug. 1821	Wayne, Du Page	Ill.	11 Oct 1896	Date Jul 1846 To Emeline Sessions
F	2 Sarah Ann Sessions	18 Dec. 1822	" "	"		Date To
M	3 Richard Sessions	25 Sept. 1823	" "	"		Date To
M	4 William Bradford Sessions	23 Jan. 1827	" "	"		Date To Katherine Yager
M	5 Daniel Alexander Sessions * chr	11 Jan. 1829	" "	"	11 Sep 1904	Date To Janet Rachel B
F	6 Mary Sessions	18 Feb. 1831	" "	"		Date To
F	7 Sessions* Laura or Louise Marion	26 July 1833	Brush Creek	"	9 May 1891	Date To Thomas Hicken
F	8 Eliza Jane Sessions	15 Nov. 1836	"	"		Date To
F	9 Melisse Sessions *	11 Mar. 1838	"	"	4 Oct. 1916	Date 6 May 1856 To Isaac Baum
F	10 Emeline Sessions *	1 May 1840	"	"	6 Oct. 1906	Date To Charles Carter Thomas
F	11 Elizabeth Sessions	21 Aug. 1842	"	"	9 Feb. 1927	Date To George Baum *
F	12 Hannah Sessions *	19 Jan. 1846	"	"	25 May 1927	Date To William John Gallagher
						Endowment confirmed and all former ratified to
	3					Date
	4 Endowment reconfirmed for above Wife, Chd #4, 5, 10.		Family heir is: Richard Sessions - father		above Child #9	Date
	5 on 29 Jan 1965 in Salt Lake Temple.				on 17 Sep 1968	Date

SESSIONS, RICHARD (son of Saulmon Sessions and Mary Hargreaves of Logan county, Ky., and Wayne county, Ill.). Born April 28, 1799, Logan county, Ky. Came to Utah 1847, contingent Mormon battalion. Married Lucretia Haws 1820, White county, Ill. (daughter of Jacob Haws and Hannah Nail), who was born Nov. 22, 1802. Their children: John b. Aug. 22, 1821, m. Emeline Sessions July 1846; Sarah Ann and Richard, Jr., died; William Bradford b. Jan. 23, 1827, m. Cathrine Yeger; Daniel Alexander b. Jan. 11, 1829, m. Janette Baum; Mary, died; Louisa b. July 26, 1833, d. 1891; Eliza Jane, died; Melissa b. March 11, 1836, m. Isaac Baum; Emeline b. May 1, 1840, m. Charles Carter Thomas; Elizabeth b. Aug. 31, 1842, m. David Condon; Hannah b. Jan. 19, 1846, m. William Gallagher. Seventy. Counselor to Bishop Terry of Mosquito Creek, Iowa; 2d counselor to Bishops Fawcett and William Wall of Provo. Member of 30th regiment, 1st brigade Illinois mounted volunteers in the Illinois Black Hawk Indian war. Farmer and stockraiser. Died March 1879, Heber, Utah. 1154			IF
Child	Child	11 DEC 1953 IF	IF
17 Sep 1968 1 July 1852	16 Feb. 1858	11 DEC 1953 IF	IF
29 JAN 1965	8 Nov. 1869	11 DEC 1953 IF	IF
11 Mar 1965	22 Apr 1857	11 DEC 1953 IF	IF
Feb. 15 Mar. 1887	16 Mar. 1887	11 DEC 1953 IF	IF
Endowment reconfirmed and all former sealings ratified for			
above Child #11,			
on 11 Mar 1968		→ over	

11 Elizabeth mē. (2) David Francis Condon

about the causes which led to the country's founding fathers throwing off the yoke of tyranny. John Crook then sang the "Star Spangled Banner," after which James A. Smith and Richard Sessions addressed the congregation.

Following the addresses the band played "Auld Lang Syne," and toasts were proposed, with three cheers offered for the Fourth of July and for President Brigham Young.

Committee for the day's events included William M. Wall, John Witt, John M. Murdoch, John Galligher and John Hamilton the town marshal.

One of the first public exhibits in the community came in the early 1870's when a group of public spirited men organized what they called "The Agricultural Association." Through this group an exhibit of all local products was put together and free government seed was distributed to everyone interested. The exhibit or fair was held in the Old Hall or Social Hall on Main Street. This same association promoted fruit tree planting, and would make arrangements for anyone interested to obtain the desired trees.

Special fairs have been sponsored by several organizations during the years, and mention is made here of some occasioned by special events.



Emma Hatch (later Mrs. W. R. Wherritt) who was Wasatch County Queen when Utah became a state in 1896.

Utah's attainment of statehood in 1896 was a cause for celebration throughout the state and in Wasatch County as well. Each county in the state was invited to select a queen who would represent the area in the state-wide celebration as a maid of honor to the state's Carnival Queen.